

MURRAY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Board Members in Attendance

Dani Murakami
Ted Eyre
Morgan Selph
Bob Vanbibber
Dana Dimitrich
Doug Hill
Janalee Matheson
Brittney Bates

The Parks & Recreation Board Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Dani Murakami.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bob Vanbibber made a motion to approve the May 8, 2013 board minutes as written. Dana Dimitrich seconded. Motion was unanimous.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No Citizens.

CLOSING MURRAY PARK TO FIREWORKS

Doug Hill made mention that a buy out of the park is a concerning issue for staff. There has been a number of internal discussions and would like to get input from the board. Looking forward, what should be the city's future policy when it comes to a private group wanting to buy out a public park? Currently a private group, Prudential Real Estate, wants to hold a customer appreciation event in Murray Park with which they want to reserve all the pavilions throughout the entire park and close off certain areas to the public. The concern is that Murray Park is a public place; therefore should it be available for a buy out to a private group.

To compound the issue, there comes a question of whether or not they should be allowed to close areas of the park off for their event. In the past there have been businesses that have rented out the three pavilions at the east end of Murray Park, pavilions #1, 2 & 3. Those businesses have put up inflatables and used the surrounding area for other activities during their event, still keeping the rest of the park open to the public.

Typically when a pavilion is rented out, that rental does not include the surrounding area to the pavilion or its amenities. Prudential is the first business that has requested a full park buy out in Murray Park. The big expectation for people who rent a pavilion is to have all of the surrounding amenities included (i.e. playground, soccer field, etc.). However, our policy with a pavilion rental is the pavilion is the only part of the park that is reserved for them. Staff feels that if a group wants to rent out all 5 pavilions in Murray City Park, they may do so, but we will not close down the rest of the park to the general public.

Morgan Selph asked if the park was to be closed down to the general public, how would we accommodate that and who would pay for it. Janalee Matheson made note that in the past a group has reserved pavilions #1-4. This was a requirement by the parks department to accommodate parking for

the number of people in the group's party. Bob Vanbibber asked if the Prudential Group wants to bring in any inflatables. Doug made note that this group will only be bringing in food and a firework display. Morgan asked if they have permits for the fireworks. Doug stated they do have permits and have been given copies of the city's ordinances on the specific requirements they need to follow and the approvals they need to have. These would include; approval from the Fire Marshall, Mayor as well as selling anything, overnight camping, etc. Ted Eyre asked about the liability with those special events. Doug stated there is no liability insurance required for a party that just wants to rent out a pavilion. The city only requires them to sign a "hold/harmless" agreement stating rental dates, time and rules. However, for groups or organizations (i.e. Babe Ruth Baseball or Murray Max Soccer) that are larger and require a special events permit, the parks department requires them to sign a "hold/harmless" agreement and provide the city with a certificate of insurance. In the case of the Prudential Group they must provide the city with proof of insurance.

Ted asked if Prudential is a Murray based company and why they wanted Murray Park for this event. Doug stated that the park is not only nice, but the size they were looking for. Currently there are no policies prohibiting an event like this, which is why they are looking for feedback from the board as to what their thoughts are on that type of use of the park. Ted asked if there are any other parks that have restrictions for this type of circumstance. Doug responded saying other area city parks do allow special events, but they do have restrictions and need special permits. They also allow closures of the parks for special events. The Prudential group doesn't necessarily want to close off the whole park, just certain areas of the park.

Doug posed the question of what we should do if there is a request for a full park rental and closure. Should that be allowed and if so, how should that be handled? Ted asked if we do it for one, do we need to do it for all. Morgan made note that it might not be such a bad idea if it were an event that could benefit the city, such as charging an admittance fee for a festival. Doug mentioned this request comes up a lot with people who have weddings in the arboretum and want the parks department to shut off the entire arboretum to the public. Currently weddings are allowed in the park, but no closures have been allowed. Ted wanted to know if this is the first time this request has come up. Doug stated it is the first request.

Dana asked if the fee structure set on the number of people are anticipated to be there. Doug went over the rental fee structure and special event fees. Janalee added in addition to the city recorders special events fee, the parks department also charges according to the number of people expected. Morgan asked if there is any need for additional revenue. Doug stated that the amount of revenue generated would be so small. His concern is that the park is a public park. Does Murray City want to start selling their parks to generate more revenue? There are a lot of groups that we have turned away (i.e. dog shows). Dana agreed that generating revenue would be good, but also sees the downfall of not allowing public use of the park. She is leaning towards not allowing all pavilions to be rented out at the same time. Morgan stated he thinks there is sentiment among the public that Murray City government is more concerned about revenue than the people. That is only going to add fuel to the fire.

Janalee stated this group just happened to pick a night that all the pavilions were available, but typically that is a hit or miss when it comes to mid-week rentals. Dana wondered if people will complain about the fireworks. Bob stated they have a permit and it's in the park. Doug made note that there have been

small displays in the park before (i.e. at the ballpark, amphitheater, etc.) and there have not been any complaints.

Ted asked about the significance of Pavilion rentals are to the budget. And Doug responded that it is about \$30,000 overall out of a \$5 million budget for the Parks.

Morgan feels that if it is during a week night there should be no problems. Bob feels that it is great for the city, but don't close the park off to the public. Ted countered with the fact that once you allow them some things they want everything. It is a public park and exclusion sounds really harsh.

Dana is asking if Prudential is asking to block off the parking lot for the event. Doug responded that Prudential has not asked for parking, but the issue we have seen is that as of today, Salt Lake County is denying the permit to allow Prudential to let off fireworks. We do not know why they are being denied, but it is rumored to be because of the new builds happening by the hill. If they continue to be denied it is very possible that they may ask to set off fireworks in Murray Park. That would be the only reason we would look at blocking any parking.

Prudential believes that by blocking all the pavilions they would limit the traffic in the park. And they don't necessarily want to kick people out if they come, but want to try to limit who is in the park.

Bob feels that as long as they aren't excluding the public it should be fine. Dana believes that renting a max of 1-3 pavilions per group should be the limit to allow for general use or other gatherings. And allow some public the availability to just use it if it is unoccupied.

Morgan feels that we should charge them for all the pavilions, but only truly book out a couple to still allow the public to come and use the pavilions. It would look worse if their name is all over the pavilion, but no one is occupying the space.

Ted feels that it is a public park and no one should have exclusivity to the park. It's great to have some bands and booths for a festival or the public to partake in, but to exclude the public seems pretty harsh.

Bob asked Doug if he needed a motion for a vote on this, but Doug explained that this has not been taken to any other level than the opinion of the Board Members. We are looking into creating a department policy because there is no ordinance at this time. And the Mayor would have the final word anyway.

Bob asked what Kim from Parks and Cory from Recreation had to say about the matter. Doug explained that it seems to be very similar to this group. Don't allow the whole park to ever be reserved for a private company and their private use. Festivals would of course be different.

Morgan mentioned that Sugarhouse Park is probably very similar, but it is still a public park and should remain that way here.

Ted asked if the County completely denies their permit would we permit them to set off fireworks and where would we allow them to do this? Bob explained that it would most likely be in a parking lot, but not many places are ideal because of the weeds. You would need to fence off the location where fireworks were being set off from just for the safety of the public.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Doug explained that budgets have been approved by the Mayor and the City Council. We will get a bunch of new money. The final budget is approved June 19th.

All projects have been approved. Not many big projects in our future, just carpet, roof, plaster and things like that.

All facilities are now open for the season; they opened Memorial Day weekend, such as the outdoor pool and the concession stand that has new management. We've heard good things about her prices and her food so we'll see.

Memorial Day at the Cemetery was beautiful. Flowers are all cleaned up now.

Ted asked about the Cemetery clean up. Is it the Youth groups? Bob mentioned that church groups were involved and took about two hours.

Summer Recreation programs are under way; Day camps at the Park Center, Tennis Lessons, band camp and other summer programs.

Everyone is all gearing up for Fun Days on the fourth of July. The Power Department will be recognized for their 100 years of service. They have selected one of their board members to be the grand marshal, Ron Snarr. Fear Factory is coming back this year to the parade, they have been instructed to dial it back a notch. No need to scare the patrons that come to watch.

Farmers Market opens July 26th on Fridays and Saturdays.

In August you have been invited to the Salt Lake County Needs Assessment Presentation to Murray City on August 6th at 5:30 PM.

QUESTIONS

Bob asked if at the next meeting we will address the Silver Sneakers?

Doug answered that it will be addressed in the July meeting and that the reports for April showed \$1500 in revenue.

Ted asked if someone rented Pavilion number 5 and wanted to give away food for free as a promotion for their business, is that in direct competition to the food sales at the Park Snack Shack. And Dani asked if there was anything in the contract. Doug answered, "no", but if you were selling it would be a problem.

Ted asked how we get around selling food for the fourth of July at Fun Days? Doug answered that we can do that because of special permits. Any rental to the pavilions can get permits to sell food if they choose.

ADJOURNMENT

Ted Eyre made a motion to adjourn the meeting until July 10th. Bob Vanbibber seconded that motion. Motion was unanimous and meeting adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.